sanctioned an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in 1990-91 for Development of Oncology Wing. The State Government did not utilise the amount.

(III) Patna Medical College, Patna had been sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore in 1994-95 for Development of Oncology Wing. There was delay in utilisation of grant but on the request of the State Government, it has been revalidated for the year 2000-01 in the month of July, 2000.

(IV) Mahaveer Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Patna, a charitable organisation, had been sanctioned an amout of Rs. 1.00 crore for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit in 1997-98.

(V) Two district projects under the District Cancer Control Programme, were sanctioned to the Government of Bihar for the districts of Patna and Vaishali in the year 1998-99. An amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs (Rs. 15.00 lakhs for each district) had been released for the purpose. The scheme is meant to create awareness for early detection, training and palliative care.

The details of teletherapy facilities available in Bihar are as under:—

(i) Bokaro General Hospital, Bokaro.
(ii) Meherbai Tata Memorial Hospital, Jamshedpur.
(iii) Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna.
(iv) Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna.

Shrinkage of Forests

*289. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNFPA report has stated that forests are shrinking now only marginally, in comparison to the period between 1950 and 1980, but dense forests are being lost and with galloping population per person forest ratio is going down;

(b) if so, what corrective steps are being taken by the Government to make country green;

(c) whether the Centre would also raise funds for soil and water

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conservation measures in new afforestation projects, particularly in the desert and droughtprone areas; and

(d) if so, to what extent and by when?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first scientific assessment of forest cover was done by the Forest Survey of India in 1987 using satellite data of the period 1981—83. Since then forest cover of the country is being assessed biennially. According to the seven assessments done so far in the period from 1981—83 to 1995—1998, the changes in forest cover and dense forest cover are as under:—

No.	Assessment	Period	Forest cover (Sq. Km.)	Percentage of geographic area	Dense Forest (Sq. Km)	Dense forest percentage of geographic area
1.	First	1981—83	6,40,819	19.49	3,86,670	11.76
2.	Second	1985—87	6,38,804	19.43	3,85,211	11.72
3.	Third	1987—89	6,40,364	19.45	3,85,610	11.73
4.	Fourth	1989—91	6,39,386	19.45	3,84,857	11.71
5.	Fifth	1991—93	6,38,879	19.43	3,85,037	11.71
6.	Sixth	1993—95	6,33,397	19.26	3,67,260	11.17
7.	Seventh	1995—98	6,37,293	19.39	3,77,358	11.48

The seventh and recent assessment shows that forest cover and dense forest cover of the country has increased by 3,896 and 10,098 sq. kms. respectively. However, due to increasing population, per capita forest cover has declined from 0.094 to 0.067 hectare in the period from 1981—1983 to 1995—1998. The UNFPA report has compared the forest cover, as assessed by Forest Survey of India in the period from 1987 to 1997, to the figures of recorded forest areas of 1951 and 1969, which are not comparable. Various important steps taken by the Government for conservation and development of forests are:—

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT

Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(iv) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(v) Guidelines have been issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(vi) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investments for conservation and development of forest resources.

(c) and (d) Soil and water conservation is an integral part of ongoing afforestation schemes of the Ministry including desert and drought prone areas.

Earnings from Chemical Exports

*290. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Indian chemical exports in 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that production and export earnings of Indian chemicals will receive a quantum leap if dedicated industrial estates for the chemical industry are built;

(c) if so, the action proposed in creating infrastructural facilities for this purpose; and

(d) the investment proposed to be made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) According to the information